

By: Gonzales

H.R. No. 2096

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dedicated community organizers Nathan Selzer and
2 Hortencia Armendariz of McAllen have greatly benefited the people
3 of South Texas; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Selzer began his career in 1994 as assistant
5 director for La Posada Providencia in San Benito, a shelter for
6 refugees and asylum seekers; he went on to serve as a paralegal for
7 the South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project and to work
8 for the Rio Grande Border Witness Program, for which he conducted
9 social justice learning tours to raise awareness of poverty,
10 immigration, and the impact of free trade along the Texas-Mexico
11 border; after serving five years as a partner representative for
12 the Rio Grande Valley Immigration Law Enforcement Monitoring
13 Project, he worked as director of the Valley Movement for Human
14 Rights and as coordinator of Casa de Proyecto Libertad before
15 joining the Service Employees International Union, Local 5, in
16 2006; and

17 WHEREAS, The following year, Mr. Selzer was named SEIU
18 political director of the Rio Grande Valley and has since claimed
19 numerous successes for members, including a family sick leave
20 policy, a 35 percent decrease in the cost of dependent health
21 insurance, and two raises; moreover, he successfully represented
22 members in civil service proceedings, initiated and directed the
23 2008 Mi Familia Vota Campaign, and developed a variety of
24 partnership projects with Hidalgo County departments; and

1 WHEREAS, Ms. Armendariz began her work in the Rio Grande
2 Valley in 2001 as assistant director of the child nutrition program
3 at Centro 16 de Septiembre and subsequently served as coordinator
4 of Proyecto Adelante for the United Farm Workers; building on her
5 experience, she became the lead community organizer for La Union
6 del Pueblo Entero, for which she coordinated a range of local and
7 state actions, and in 2005, she was hired as the lead organizer for
8 SEIU, Local 5; she has continued to contribute to the union as the
9 organizing director, in which role she has been instrumental in
10 winning improvements in pay, benefits, and working conditions for
11 civil employees in Hidalgo and Cameron Counties; and

12 WHEREAS, In addition to sharing a passion for human rights
13 work, Mr. Selzer and Ms. Armendariz have enjoyed more than four
14 years of marriage and are the proud parents of a daughter, Sofia
15 Cielo; the family is moving to California, where both Mr. Selzer and
16 Ms. Armendariz have accepted positions with SEIU-United Health Care
17 Workers; and

18 WHEREAS, Nathan Selzer and Hortencia Armendariz have made a
19 lasting and positive difference in the lives of countless Valley
20 residents, and they may reflect with pride on their many
21 accomplishments as they embark on the next exciting chapter of
22 their lives; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
24 Legislature hereby honor Nathan Selzer and Hortencia Armendariz for
25 their steadfast efforts in behalf of immigrants, workers, women,
26 and children and extend to them sincere best wishes for success in
27 their new posts; and, be it further

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1 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
2 prepared for Mr. Selzer and Ms. Armendariz as an expression of high
3 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.